the southern side of the Jew's shop. Government once agreed to reopen the road in case the municipality wanted it. The municipality accordingly forwarded a resolution to Government, but nothing happened. The road should be reopened without more delay.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abdul Rahiman Kutty, you say that the municipality moved Government in the matter of opening this road but that they heard nothing more on the subject. That is not strictly accurate because the municipality moved in the matter in January 1927. The Chief Engineer then went into the matter and submitted a report. Then in March 1927 he supplied another report. Then Government asked the municipality whether they would agree to contribute at least half of the cost. The municipality have since enquired what the approximate cost would be and this question has been referred to the Chief Engineer and as soon as his report is received, this information will be conveyed to the municipality.

55. Ayurveda Department.

MR. K. P. MARTANDAN VAIDYAN (*Member, Chirayinkil taluk, Group II*) dealt with the development of the Ayurveda Department and suggested measures for further advancing the department. According to him there were three classes of Ayurveda Vaidyans now in the State. The first class consisted of those Vaidyans who had qualified for the various diplomas instituted by the Government. The second class consisted of those hereditary Vaidyans, who though wanting in diplomas were proficient in the art. The third class consisted of those quacks who had neither diplomas nor proficiency and who could be seen in numbers all over the country. This last class should be prohibited from gambling with human lives. So far as qualified Vaidyans were concerned, they were wanting in practical knowledge in surgery and prescription. This apart, the grants-in-aid which Government were granting to these Vaidyans, were very small, ridiculously small when compared with the pay given to allopathic doctors. It would be very proper to fix the amount of the grant-in-aid at least at Rs. 50. The next class of Vaidyans *viz.*, the hereditary physicians formed the real practitioners of Ayurveda. They should be encouraged and all inducements should be held out to them. A committee should be appointed to find out such Vaidyans and to render them all encouragement.

As regards the regeneration of Ayurveda, the member said that Ayurveda, though a perfect art, was gradually dying out owing to want of judicious patronage. In fact most of the methods of treatment propounded and practised by the ancients had already sunk into oblivion. To resuscitate this ancient system, the exertions of a man proficient both in the western and oriental systems of treatment were absolutely necessary. Such a man should be at the head of affairs in the Ayurveda Department, if the department was to make any progress hereafter.

Another suggestion made by the member was in regard to the teaching of anatomy to the students of the Ayurveda College. The students of the college were now given theoretical instruction in anatomy, but this would be of little help to them unless they were also given practical training in surgery. In order to achieve this end, Government could either appoint an allopathic doctor in the Ayurveda hospital or arrange for practical training in surgery being given in the General Hospital to the students of the Ayurveda College.

The member referred in conclusion to the recent development of education among the Ezhavas and the consequent political awakening among them. Time was when the Government excluded the Ezhavas from educational institutions and from the public service. But these disabilities had been removed of late, and the Ezhavas were now making rapid strides in education. Their political and civic consciousness was quickened and they were eager to establish their legitimate claims for representation in the public service. In the Ayurveda Department, particularly, they were very poorly represented though the greater number of the qualified candidates in the State belonged to their community. Of the many appointments in the department, only two were held by members of the Ezhava community. One was the doctor appointed temporarily to the post of Lecturer in Anatomy in the Ayurveda College and the other was a compounder in the Ayurveda Hospital. Government should look into this matter.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Martandan Vaidyan, your representation covers very wide subjects and difficult problems. I doubt whether anybody is in a position to say why Vaidyans should get a grant-in-aid of Rs. 15 while a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery should start on a considerably higher pay. These are matters on which we cannot decide in terms of pure logic. There are various considerations that enter into the question. However, all that you have said will be considered in consultation with the Government's advisers on Ayurveda.

In regard to the other points you raised in the matter of education of Ezhavas and their re-awakening, these too will be looked into.

56. Maintenance of public health.

MR. CHACKO MATHEW (*Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery*) said that the condition of public health in the State was very poor. Almost every other man whom one met in the street was suffering from some disease. There was hardly a pupil who did not want spectacles. According to statistics, 96 per cent of the population were suffering from hookworm. Diseases of the heart, tuberculosis, etc. could be met with anywhere. It was high time to devise measures for combating the spread of these diseases.

The member next referred to the statistics of births and deaths which disclosed the high rate of mortality prevailing in the State. From the figures of deaths registered one could see that the average age at which deaths occurred was 60 in Travancore whereas in European countries it was 80. The rate of infant mortality was also very high.

In order to attend to public health there were several departments under the Government. In urban areas, municipal councils were entrusted with the administration of public health. But most of these councils had no funds to carry out any new schemes. So far as the several departments were concerned, they were also not quite equal to the task. The member would suggest that the Sanitary Department should be made a major department and made solely responsible for the maintenance of public health. The department might carry on propaganda work by means of distribution of pamphlets, instruction in schools, etc.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chacko Mathew, Government are entirely at one with you in holding that the state of public health in Travancore is not at all as it should be. It is with a view to ameliorate the position in respect of public health that they are now endeavouring to make arrangements that will view the whole question comprehensively and devise methods for correcting evils which now prevail.

57. Promotion of public health with special reference to schools, hospitals, and municipalities.

DR. KOSHY PALAKUNNATHU (*Member, Nominated*) spoke of public health with reference to municipal councils, hospitals and schools. As regards municipal councils, the member said that their chief activities in relation to the administration of public health were confined to sanitation, control of the sale of foodstuffs and vaccination. But even in respect of these things, all that was possible or necessary was not being done. Practically little was also being done for the prevention of diseases like malaria, typhoid, elephantiasis, hookworm, etc. Government should put more life into the work of the municipalities in these directions.

So far as rural sanitation was concerned, the maintenance of sanitation in public markets claimed careful attention. Under the existing rules, markets were under the dual control of the Sanitary Department and the Revenue Department. This dual control should be abolished and the Sanitary Department should be made solely responsible for the sanitation of markets. The officers of the Sanitary Department should also be invested with statutory powers to enforce sanitation in rural areas. Another measure that was necessary was the institution of a publicity bureau to do propaganda work in sanitation and public health. Leaflets might be distributed by this agency and magic lantern lectures might be delivered in various places. The publicity bureau might be attached to the Trivandrum municipality and

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